

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 344, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 342, 343, and 344.

EXPRESSING CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR TROOPS IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me express my deep concern for the three soldiers who are now missing in Iraq and applaud their brothers-in-arms for never giving up on their search, for we as Americans will never leave our comrades, our brothers and sisters, in battle or never leave them on the battlefield. That is why this Congress, with the leadership of NANCY PELOSI, believes that we can craft a resolution and a solution, and that is that we begin to redeploy our troops and focus on the Iraqi Government, to have them stand up and to have them ensure the safety of the Iraqi people and also Americans to ensure the safety of their soldiers.

Our soldiers have been successful on the battlefield. They can claim victory. It is time now for the President, the White House, the leadership to get together and to be able to solve these untenable problems.

Why are we allowing our young people to be on the battlefield without the support, the full support, of a reasoned White House? Let us work together.

TO RENT OR NOT TO RENT TO ILLEGALS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, the citizens of Farmers Branch, Texas, voted overwhelmingly to make it a crime for landlords to rent to people illegally in the United States, fining landlords \$500 a day. The people have spoken. They want only citizens and legal immigrants to live in the city.

Oh, but some landlords object. I find this odd. It is illegal to be in the United States without permission. It is illegal to hire illegals that are in the United States without permission. So if illegals aren't supposed to be here in the first place or work here, it is only logical they shouldn't be able to rent here.

In spite of this new law, some landlords want to take this American city to court and demand that they, these money-grabbing landlords, be able to rent to the illegals.

This is perplexing. The Federal Government doesn't adequately protect the border or prosecute or deport illegals, so cities like Farmers Branch, Texas, are simply trying to make their city a sanctuary city for Americans and legal immigrants. And good for them.

But who knows what the Supreme Court will do. Let's see if in the name of the almighty dollar these rogue businessmen will convince the Supreme Court that illegals should be able to rent property, even though they are illegally on the land they are renting.

And that's just the way it is.

APRIL REVENUE SHOWERS

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, April revenue showers. That is what the Wall Street Journal called the large government revenues received by this Federal Government in the month of April. It was \$70 billion over revenue in 2006. It shows that tax cuts work. The Democrats, on the other hand, want to raise taxes. They want to raise the taxes that American people pay.

What we believe in and what the President has done in just the five short years he has been in office is to actually cut taxes that the American people pay, which, in the end, through greater economic growth, will lead to more government revenue.

A case in point: the capital gains tax cut and the dividends tax cut, those two things have resulted in a 30 percent increase in revenue under those two provisions. It shows that tax cuts work.

They are good for the economy and they are good for the American people, and we need to extend the tax cuts.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL GREEN of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GETTING JUSTICE FOR MURDERED WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my strong support for the families and women who have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City in Mexico. I have always believed that violence against women anywhere is an attack on women everywhere. Just 5 minutes from the U.S. border in Ciudad Juarez in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, over 400 women and girls have been brutally murdered over the last 14 years.

In today's Washington Post, which I will submit for the RECORD, I read the story of mothers of victims whose fight for justice has lasted well over a decade. Because of the gross negligence and failure of local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute the murders, the statute of limitations is starting to run out on some of the earlier murders of women in Ciudad Juarez. What a disgrace, if we cannot solve the murders of these over-450 women.

Women and young girls from all parts of Mexico moved to Ciudad Juarez in hopes of finding work, including jobs at American-owned companies known in Spanish as maquiladoras. These jobs involve late hours, forcing women to travel home in the dark, alone, leaving them vulnerable to attack.

Many of these young women are under the age of 25. They are the sole earners and income earners for their families. Their brothers and fathers are not employed by maquilas, because the maquiladores choose to hire these young women, who they know will not speak out about their rights or condemn the treatment of these women in the workplace.

That is why I introduced a resolution to address the murders of women and girls in Ciudad Juarez some 3 years ago, and I am happy to report that H.R. 90 was passed by this Congress and there is recognition now on the value and faith that we have in the families in Ciudad Juarez.

I bring that out because I say to you and to the public, when we can fight for the rights of women in the Taliban and the Middle East, why can't we fight also honorably for the women who live 5 minutes from this border, many of whom are relatives to us, our constituents, related to families that we represent? It is about time that we change the discussion and direction about this debate that we have with our friends south of the border.

I am proud to be a descendant of friends south of the border, but I also

have to say that there has to be some changes in terms of how we deal with women who are being abused, attacked, and mutilated. It is time that our governments come together.

I ask that Condoleezza Rice and our President weigh in, as well as the new President of Mexico, Mr. Calderon, the President of Mexico, who says this is a priority for him to combat violence against women. I hope that we can do that.

In 2003 and 2004, I organized a congressional delegation trip to Ciudad Juarez with families of victims, government officials, human rights advocates, newspaper reporters and indeed also the FBI. It was in these trips that my dedication to helping the women of Ciudad Juarez was solidified. Families of violence deserve answers and closure instead of either being ignored or harassed for asking for justice to find out where their daughters' bodies lay and where those remains are.

I am sad to report that even though we have asked for assistance from outside of our Nation through the OAS, through a forensic group in Argentina to help identify the bodies and remains of these young women, that it hasn't been as successful as I would have hoped.

I would ask our government to please weigh in again to provide the technical support that is needed to help identify the remains of these young women so that families can have some closure.

Again, any assault on a woman, murder, mutilation or what have you, is an assault on all mankind; and we as Members of Congress should no less have any interest into what happens south of the border.

The convictions in many cases of these individuals that were so-called blamed for these murders were overturned. There wasn't a judge or anyone that would convict anyone of doing these heinous crimes.

I have to say to myself and to the public and to this Congress, why have 450 women who have disappeared from their families, from their homes, somehow not found justice? I just want to remind individuals that the work goes on, that we need help to solve the murders in Ciudad Juarez, and ask our government, both governments, Mexico and the U.S., to find some resolution here.

[From the Washington Post, May 14, 2007]

WANING HOPES IN JUAREZ

(By Manuel Roig-Franzia)

CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO.—For 13 years, June 14 has brought tears, tortured memories and enduring pain to Griselda Salas.

It was on that date, in 1993, that her 16-year-old sister, Guadalupe Ivonne Salas, disappeared. Guadalupe Ivonne's body turned up less than a week later in a park in this dusty, wind-swept industrial city near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Guadalupe Ivonne, who was raped and strangled, was one of the first victims in Mexico's grisliest modern-day crime mystery—the murders of more than 400 women in the past 14 years in Ciudad Juarez, many of the bodies dumped in the desert, horribly

mutilated. The killings, mostly of poor young factory workers, have inspired two Hollywood motion pictures and enraged human rights groups, which have filled volumes with accusations of corruption, botched investigations and official negligence.

Yet the mystery remains unsolved.

Now the earliest of these cases are quietly slipping off legal dockets because Mexico, unlike the United States and many European countries, has a statute of limitations for murder. At a time when U.S. prosecutors are resurrecting civil rights-era murder cases—some more than 40 years old—Mexico is closing murder cases forever after 14 years. With each passing day, it appears likely that a legal technicality may end a quest to unravel a string of slayings that shocked the world.

"It is totally and absolutely grotesque to think that murderers could be enjoying their freedom because of this law," said Jaime García Chávez, a Chihuahua state legislator who is pressing to abolish Mexico's statute of limitations. "It is inexcusable."

Once filled with optimism, buoyed by support from the likes of actresses Jane Fonda and Sally Field, feminists and lawmakers here are demoralized. Esther Chávez Cano, founder of Juarez's first rape and domestic violence counseling center, laments "a worrying silence" about cases that once commanded banner headlines. Few here are optimistic, even though the looming deadlines for dozens of Juarez cases have set off a last-minute race to revive long-dormant investigations.

An Argentine forensics team commissioned to look into the murders, drawing on experience from investigations of Argentina's "dirty war" and the Salvadoran civil war, is expected to release a damning report later this year that will illustrate the almost impossible task faced by prosecutors. The Argentines have found body parts carelessly left for years on the floors of medical examiner's offices, heads with no matching bodies, bodies with no matching heads and a mish-mash of unlabeled corpses tossed into mass graves at paupers' cemeteries.

"It's basically a huge mess," forensic archaeologist Mercedes Doretti, the team leader, said in an interview.

García Chávez's effort to give investigators more time to untangle that mess by extending the statute of limitations, a gambit he considers a long shot, has already come too late for Jessica Elizalde, a slain journalist whose murder case expired March 14. The case of a factory worker, Luz Yvonne de la O García, went off the books April 21, as did the murder of an unidentified woman on May 12. Dozens more will follow in the coming months and years.

The next could be Guadalupe Ivonne Salas, though prosecutors say they may be closing in on a suspect—a promise that her family is reluctant to believe after years of dashed hopes.

Salas, a petite 16-year-old, shared a single bed in a cinder-block shack with her infant daughter and her mother, Vicky Salas. The family, like thousands of others, was drawn to Ciudad Juarez by the maquiladoras—assembly plants, most of them owned by U.S. companies—that sprang up blocks from the border because of an abundance of cheap labor and that transformed the town into the fourth-most-populous city in Mexico.

Young women were especially prized by factory supervisors because they were considered more reliable and less rowdy than men. Almost overnight, women were making money while men were still struggling to find jobs, leading to resentment in the local macho culture that activists cite as a social undercurrent to the slayings.

Salas walked each day down a treeless dirt road, past piles of rotting garbage and shacks with sagging walls, to catch a bus that took her to a television part manufacturer. She made about \$35 a week, sometimes pulling night shifts and returning home to a neighborhood with no streetlights.

The day that she disappeared should have been joyous; she was getting ready to celebrate her daughter's first birthday. Griselda Salas remembers her sister saying that a friend was going to lend her money to buy presents and party supplies.

"She's probably gone off with some stud," Griselda Salas remembers being told by police when her sister did not return home. "You watch, she'll come back pregnant with a fat belly in a few months."

Vicky Salas was on a religious retreat at the time of her daughter's disappearance. When she returned several days later, members of her church were in tears.

"They've found a dead girl," she remembers her friends telling her. "They think it's Ivonne."

A car accident delayed Vicky Salas's trip to the morgue, which was closed when she arrived. An unsmiling police officer told her, "You'll have to come back tomorrow," and no amount of pleading by a panic-stricken mother could change his mind, she recalled.

Even as the death toll rose, victims' families continued to complain about insensitive investigators. One state attorney general suggested that the women encouraged their attackers by dressing provocatively. Other officials implied that the victims were prostitutes, living "double lives," though their mothers insisted they were poor factory workers.

"They called them the morenitas," Juarez police criminologist Oscar Maynez said in an interview, invoking a derogatory term that was in vogue at the time and roughly translates to "little brown ones." No one cared about investigating their deaths. There was clear sexism and classism.

Mexican federal authorities and international human rights organizations that have investigated the cases have accused local authorities in Ciudad Juarez and the state of Chihuahua of covering up evidence and failing to properly investigate crimes for a decade and a half.

The Washington Office on Latin America, or WOLA, a Washington-based human rights organization, has said the true killers may have been protected by authorities who tortured innocents to confess to the killings. Victims' families have been subjected to harassment.

"One relative of a murder victim received a threatening voicemail message warning her to drop the case; the caller ID showed the call had come from the state judicial police," a WOLA report said.

Flor Rocío Munguía González, the special prosecutor for what has become known as the femicides in Juarez, said in an interview that such offenses are "things of the past" and that she has more than tripled her investigative staff to solve old cases before the time limits expire and to track down those responsible for the ongoing killings of women in Juarez.

"I take great satisfaction in our efforts—we're doing everything we can," said Munguía González, who has been in office since February 2006.

After seeing eight special prosecutors come and go with no results, local activists are not impressed. Maureen Meyer, a WO-LA analyst, said that a special federal investigator had found that 130 public officials had either been negligent or abused their authority during the murder investigations, but none has been disciplined.

"There's a real failure to hold them accountable," Meyer said in an interview.

Maynez, the criminologist, said he believes a powerful network of police, municipal officials and organized crime figures still protects the killers. He resigned from the job for a short time, after being asked to help frame two bus drivers in one of the cases. He refused, but the two men were arrested anyway. One died in suspicious circumstances during a jailhouse surgery. The other was released after testifying that he had been tortured by police into confessing.

An attorney for the bus drivers was killed by Chihuahua state police in a drive-by shooting in 2005, four days after vowing to file a corruption complaint. The police said the shooting was a case of mistaken identity.

Skepticism is growing as the Argentine forensics team nears the conclusion of its inquiry. The team has discovered that forensics officials in Ciudad Juarez boiled the corpses of some victims, destroying crucial DNA. The group also has found that the families of at least three victims received the wrong bodies for burial.

"The authorities just sealed the coffins and told the families not to ask any questions," said Doretta, the lead forensics investigator.

The Juarez families, Doretta said, have insisted that no evidence be sent to Mexican laboratories. Instead, Doretta has sent samples to a U.S. lab; she is expecting results soon.

The new forensic evidence and the approach of the statute of limitations deadlines are the sorts of developments that once would have prompted demonstrations in downtown Juarez. But the mothers who for years have pleaded for justice are exhausted, aging and in poor health.

The case of Silvia Morales, who was killed when she was 16, will expire in less than two years. Her mother, Ramona Morales, had been one of the most vocal critics in a protest movement of victim relatives, but is now suffering from diabetes and a bad knee.

"I can't do it anymore," she said one recent afternoon, tears trickling down her face.

Eva Arce, whose daughter Silvia Arce disappeared in 1998, was twice beaten by thugs after demonstrations demanding justice. She spends her days clipping newspaper articles about a new generation of murdered women in Juarez and writing poems.

"A tortured soul pours from a river of blood," she said one recent afternoon, reading from her notebook.

That same day, the newspaper *El Norte* of Ciudad Juarez carried a photograph of a pretty, dark-haired young woman. She didn't look so different from Silvia Arce or Silvia Morales or Guadalupe Ivonne Salas. The caption read: "Edith Aranda Longoria, 729 days since she was last seen."

□ 1930

RENAMING DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the 2008 defense authorization bill. For the sixth year in a row, the bill contains language to rename the Department of the Navy to be the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

I want to thank House Armed Services Chairman IKE SKELTON and Rank-

ing Member DUNCAN HUNTER for their continued support for this change because the need to recognize the coequal status of the Navy and the Marine Corps team is long overdue. I have continued to introduce legislation to rename the department. I hope this year the Senate will support the House position and join in bringing the proper respect to the fighting team of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Over the years, this name change has received not only the support of the full House Armed Services Committee but also the support of former Navy Secretaries and Marine Corps Commandants.

The Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, 1993 to 1998, voiced his support for the change when he stated: "As a combat veteran and former Navy officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamics and the importance of recognizing the contribution of team components. The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that, a dynamic partnership, and it is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership."

General Carl Mundy, the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps stated: "I believe the changes you propose will do much to clarify the relationship, responsibilities, and functions of the appointed civilian authority over the United States naval services. I believe that any Secretary, present, past or future, will be very proud to bear the title 'Marine' as well as 'Navy.'"

Admiral Stansfield Turner, United States Navy, Retired, former Director of Central Intelligence, stated: "I think this change in title enhances the prestige and pride of the people in the Marine Corps. And it does not necessarily take anything away from the Navy in that process."

Mr. Speaker, last year an editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* on April 21, 2006, also supported the change stating: "No service branch shows more respect for tradition than the United States Marine Corps does, which makes it all the more ironic that tradition denies the Corps an important show of respect: Equal billing with the other services and the branches."

Mr. Speaker, as I begin to close, I want to show the Members of the House, these are the orders from the Secretary of the Navy. Sergeant Michael Bitz, United States Marine Corps, was killed for this country 2 years ago and his family received in his memory the Silver Star for Valor. And yet, Mr. Speaker, you can see that the title of the order says the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C. and the Navy flag. This was a Marine who gave his life for this country.

Isn't it proper that the orders for the Silver Star should look like this and say at the top the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Navy flag, Marine flag, they are one fighting team and they should be recognized as a fighting team.

It is about time, after 40-some years, the House, with the Goldwater-Nichols bill, said there are four separate branches: The Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Army, and it is time that the Marine Corps be recognized as one of the strongest fighting teams in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING SHERIFF JOE GOODSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about one of the finest and most dedicated members of America's law enforcement community, and one of the best sheriffs to ever have served in the 10th Congressional District of Texas.

For 29 years, the good people of Lee County, Texas, trusted Joe Goodson to be their sheriff. He passed away last month, but left those he protected with a safe, friendly and God-fearing community.

Sheriff Joe, as he was known to the thousands of people who called him a friend, worked hard, not just for the people of his county, but for all Texans and for all Americans.

His fellow Texas sheriffs chose him to lead the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. He was a member of the Auto Theft Task Force, the Narcotics Task Force, and he was the head of the cold case review people team.

But it wasn't just that he was among the finest lawmen in Texas that made Sheriff Joe so well liked and so respected. Sheriff Goodson always treated others the same way he wanted to be treated, and the thousands of people who knew him respected him for it.

Law enforcement ran in Sheriff Joe's blood. His dad, Vernon Goodson, served as sheriff in Lee County for 25 years before his son Joe was elected and took over the position. And as Buddy Price, the editor of the *Giddings Times* and *News* in Lee County, will tell you, they were both dedicated to their jobs and loved the people they served. While they both enforced the law vigorously, they also used commonsense and resolved situations peacefully whenever they could.

One of the things Sheriff Joe is best known for is a responsible, some would even say the conservative way in which he ran his sheriff's office. He saw the money entrusted to him and his deputies as the people's money. He ran a tight ship and accounted for every dollar his department spent.

But once again, I have to go back to who Sheriff Goodson was as a person.